**Title:** Used Computer Printer Toner Cartridge Recycling
**Installation:** Redstone Arsenal, Alabama
**POC:** Ken Hewitt, REM, (256) 955-7110

**Mission Benefits:** A recyclable commodity is being collected and removed from the solid waste stream to reduce disposal costs; and is being sold to cartridge remanufactures with the money returned to the Arsenal through the Qualified Recycling Program.

**Cost Benefits:** Over 18 tons of used toner cartridges have been recycled on Redstone Arsenal since 1996. Approximately $38,000 has been returned to the government.

**Environmental Benefits:** It is estimated that by recycling 10 tons of toner cartridges, 148 barrels of crude oil has been saved. A valuable item is now being recycled that otherwise would have been disposed.



Photo by Ken Hewitt

Used empty computer printer toner cartridges are collected in 9 cubic yard container for sorting and processing at the recycle center to sell to cartridge re-manufacturers.

**Description:** The base operations contractor makes regular scheduled visits to empty the 28 containers of used toner cartridges positioned at various locations on Redstone Arsenal. The cartridges are taken to Building 5669 and processed. The printer cartridge is logged, sorted, and placed in its particular bin according to manufacturer's model number. The printer cartridges are direct sold to re-manufacturers and brokers. The Garrison processes over 600 printer cartridges a month.

The printer cartridge container features a custom-designed pull down "mail box" slot. The cartridge box drops into a 22 cubic foot roll-in cart positioned under the "mail box" slot inside the container for easy removal, transportation, and processing. The slot opening is big enough to accommodate the largest printer cartridges on the market. The container is lock-able and is vented.

**Cost:** $44,000

**Regulatory Drivers:** Executive Order 13101

**Lessons Learned:**

1. Sorting and processing empty toner cartridges are necessary to obtain maximum return on sales.
2. Can pack used toner cartridge in box of replacement cartridge and recycle the cardboard box.
3. Container roll in carts (not shown in photo) reduce the labor necessary to collect the cartridges.

**Point of Contact:**

Installation POC: Ken Hewitt, Directorate of Environment and Safety, (256) 955-7110, kenneth.hewitt@redstone.army.mil
Vendor POC: Marilynn Faber, Pro-Tainer, Inc., P.O. Box 427, Alexandria, MN 56308, (800) 248-7761, GSA Contract # GS07F-9978H; GS-30F-1034D
Website for More Information: http://www.protainer.com